



# Sidewalk Prioritization Criteria

March, 2008

These criteria were developed to help prioritize construction of sidewalks in the City of Columbus. Many areas are in need of sidewalks or sidewalk repairs, but funds available for this work are limited. The criteria were developed through a public process that included neighborhood representatives, bicycling and pedestrian advocates, and the general public.

Criteria	Brief description	Explanation
Potential Demand	The potential for walking activity to occur if sidewalks, paths or other appropriate walking facilities are provided.	Areas with higher levels of potential walking activity should have higher priorities for installing sidewalks than other areas. (This is also called "latent demand.")
Safety	Safety of pedestrians based on the number of pedestrian crashes	Sidewalks should be prioritized for locations with larger numbers of pedestrian crashes.
Underserved Area	The area within the 1958 Columbus boundary	Older areas of the city have infrastructure inequities that require priority attention.
Transit Service	Overall frequency of transit service	Areas with more transit service are likely to have busier bus stops and more pedestrian activity.
Partnering Project	An existing city project involving construction in the right of way.	If a project is planned to dig up a roadway, it can reduce the city's expense and public's inconvenience by including a sidewalk if possible.
Schools	School walking routes	Preferred walking routes to schools have been identified by the city and school districts to increase student safety.
Senior Population	Density of senior population	Concentrations of senior residents require more attention to sidewalks.
Population with Disabilities	Density of population with disabilities	Concentrations of people with disabilities require more attention to sidewalks.
Auto ownership	Density of zero-car households	Concentrations of residents without cars require more attention to sidewalks.
Children's activity centers	Locations to which children commonly walk	Activity centers consist of: libraries, playgrounds, recreation centers and public pools.
Sidewalk Gaps and Condition	A location with no sidewalk, or the physical condition of an existing sidewalk or similar facility	Condition includes: surface conditions (cracks, heaving, crumbling), dimensions (narrowness) and obstacles (poles, hydrants).
Identified Need	Project has been identified as a priority in an existing study.	A study, such as a Community Mobility Plan, has identified a particular sidewalk need.
T&P Commission	Project has been identified as a priority by the Columbus Transportation and Pedestrian Commission.	The city's advisory body, the Transportation and Pedestrian Commission, has formally identified a particular sidewalk need.



## Sidewalk Criteria Scoring

Each criterion (except two) is scored on a scale between one and ten. Some may have any score in that range, others have only a few scores available based on evaluations that are “yes/no” or qualitative in nature. The score for each criterion is then multiplied by a weight that is based on the relative importance of that criterion as identified during the public process.

<u>Sidewalk Criteria</u>	<u>Criteria Score</u>	<u>Criteria Weight</u>
Potential Demand	1-10	x4
Safety	4, 6, 9 (low, med, high)	x4
Underserved Area	0, 7 (no, yes)	x8
Transit Service	1-10	x4
Partnering Project	0, 8 (no, yes)	x2
Schools	0, 9 (no, yes)	x8
Senior Population	1-10	x4
Population with Disabilities	1-10	x4
Auto ownership	1-10	x1
Children’s activity centers	0, 7 (no, yes)	x4
Sidewalk Gaps and Condition	2, 4, 6, 9 (good, fair, poor, gap)	x2
Identified Need	This item helps identify projects for scoring, but is not scored itself.	
T&P Commission	The Commission is part of the decision-making process that evaluates scores from the other criteria.	



## Sample Sidewalk Priority Calculations

These examples show how three different street segments could score using the criteria scores and weights developed for Operation SAFEWALKS.

Street Segment A	Score	Weight		Weighted Score
Medium potential demand	5	x4	=	20
Medium transit service	6	x4	=	24
Mid-density of seniors	6	x4	=	24
Mid-density of persons with disabilities	5	x4	=	20
Mid-density of zero-car households	5	x1	=	5
No sidewalk present	9	x2	=	18
Medium safety concern	6	x4	=	24
Partnering project	8	x2	=	16
Near a children's activity center	7	x4	=	28
Unweighted Score	57			
Weighted Score				179

Street Segment B	Score	Weight		Weighted Score
High potential demand	8	x4	=	32
High transit service	9	x4	=	36
Low density of seniors	3	x4	=	12
Low density of persons with disabilities	2	x4	=	8
High density of zero-car households	8	x1	=	8
Poor condition sidewalk present	6	x2	=	12
Low safety concern	4	x4	=	16
Partnering project	8	x2	=	16
Along a school walk route	9	x8	=	72
Unweighted Score	57			
Weighted Score				212

Street Segment C	Score	Weight		Weighted Score
Medium potential demand	5	x4	=	20
High transit service	8	x4	=	32
Mid-density of seniors	6	x4	=	24
Low density of persons with disabilities	2	x4	=	8
Mid-density of zero-car households	4	x1	=	4
No sidewalk present	9	x2	=	18
Underserved area	7	x8	=	56
Along a school walk route	9	x8	=	72
Near a children's activity center	7	x4	=	28
Unweighted Score	57			
Weighted Score				262